MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
HELD IN NEW YORK CITY ON JULY 17, 1936.

The first meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts during the fiscal year 1937 was held in the office of Mr. John Russell Pope, 542 Fifth Avenue, New York City, on Friday, July 17, 1936. The following members were present:

Mr. Moore, Chairman,
Mr. Clarke,
Mr. Lawrie,
Mr. Savage,
Mr. Borie,
Mr. Shepley,
also H. P. Caemmerer,

Executive Secretary and Administrative Officer.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a. m., daylight saving time.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS: The minutes of the meetings held May 1 and May 28, 1936, were approved.

2. DESIGN FOR YORK COUNTY, MAINE, COIN: Under date of July 14, 1936, the following letter was received from the Acting Director of the Mint, submitting sketches for the York County, Maine, memorial coin to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the founding of the county:

July 14, 1936.

Hon. Charles Moore, Chairman,
Commission of Fine Arts,
Navy Department Building,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I am submitting sketches of a model for the coin authorized by Congress to be issued in commemoration of the three-hundredth anniversary of the founding of York County, Maine.

The sketches are submitted with the understanding that the plaster model will be presented before final approval is attached by the Secretary of the Treasury.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) M. M. O'Reilly,
Acting Director of the Mint.

The Commission were in conference with Mr. Walter R. Nichols, of Saco, Maine, in regard to the design. Mr. Nichols pointed out that for the obverse he had had portrayed a fort built by the settlers in 1636 and for the reverse an emblem representing a seal of the York County Court in colonial days. Mr. Nichols is a banker and a collector of coins. He is, therefore, taking an active interest in both the celebration and in the matter of securing a suitable design for the coin.

A sketch model Mr. Nichols said was made by the G. S. Pacetti Co., die sinkers and letter cutters, 37 Hertford Street, Boston. The design for the lettering was done by Mr. Walter H. Rich of Portland, Maine, connected with the Bureau of Fisheries of the Department of Commerce.

Mr. Lawrie gave the design particular attention and recommended that the date 1636 on the upper part of the obverse be omitted to avoid repetition on the model. The letter G in "God" should be corrected and in general the lettering should be redesigned. The Commission approved the models subject to these criticisms and with the understanding that Mr. Nichols would present models satisfactory to the Mint. The corrections suggested are to be attended to at the mint at Philadelphia. Mr. Nichols said there is a great desire on the part of the people of York County to get these coins by August 1936 and the Acting Director of the Mint has promised them by that time. A report was sent to the Acting Director of the Mint. (Exhibit A)

3. MEMORIAL COIN FOR NEW ROCHELLE, NEW YORK: Under date of July 15, 1936, a letter was received from the Acting Director of the Mint, submitting a design for the New Rochelle, New York, memorial coin designed by Lorillard Wise of New Rochelle. Mr. Lawrie inspected the designs. He raised the question whether the type of Indian shown in the obverse was one that represented

an Indian of the locality; also he said the word, "Liberty", should be removed from the Indian; furthermore that the stars in the margin should not be cut off. In general he felt that the obverse should be restudied. It was suggested that the words, two hundred and fifty, would be more appropriate in connection with the word, "Anniversary" than simply the figures, 250. A report was made to the Acting Director of the Mint accordingly. (Exhibit B)

4. ELGIN, ILLINOIS MEMORIAL COIN: Under date of July 15, 1936, the following letter was received from the Acting Director of the Mint, submitting sketches for the Elgin, Illinois, memorial coin:

July 15, 1936.

Hon. Charles Moore, Chairman,
Commission of Fine Arts,
Navy Department Building,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I am submitting sketches of a model for the coin authorized by Congress to be issued in commemoration of the one hundredth anniversary of the founding of the city of Elgin, Illinois, and the erection of a heroic Pioneer Memorial.

The sketches are submitted for your consideration as to their artistic merits, and with the understanding that the plaster model will be presented before final approval is attached by the Secretary of the Treasury.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) M. M. O'Reilly,
Acting Director of the Mint.

The sketches were inspected by Mr. Lawrie in particular. The obverse represented a head of one of the founders of the city and the reverse a group from the Pioneer Memorial. Mr. Lawrie advised that the head on the obverse should be shown in profile and with this criticism the sketches were approved and a report was made to the Acting Director of the Mint accordingly, it being

understood that models of the sketches will be submitted later. (Exhibit C)

5. BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT COIN: Under date of July 10, 1936, the following letter was received from the Acting Director of the Mint, submitting revised sketches for the Bridgeport, Connecticut, memorial coin:

July 10, 1936.

Hon. Charles Moore, Chairman,
Commission of Fine Arts,
Navy Department Building,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Moore:

I am inclosing sketches of the Bridgeport Centennial commemorative coin.

The sketches were returned by the General Chairman of the Centennial Committee with the statement that these are "new sketches from Mr. Kreis, in accordance with our letter of June 29th" and Mr. Buckingham also states that he hopes the "new sketches are in accordance with the very constructive suggestions of the Commission of Fine Arts".

Very truly yours,
(Signed) M. M. O'Reilly,
Acting Director of the Mint.

Mr. Lawrie inspected the sketches and upon his recommendation the Commission approved them. A report was made to the Acting Director of the Mint accordingly. (Exhibit D)

6. COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA, COIN: During the meeting in New York City the secretary received a long distance call from the office of the Acting Director of the Mint, stating that a revised design for the Columbia, South Carolina, coin had been received and that the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts was desired concerning it. Accordingly it was arranged that the sculptor, Mr. A. Wolf Davidson, come to New York with his sketch models and let Mr. Lawrie inspect them on Saturday, July 18.

7. APARTMENT BUILDING ADJACENT TO GERMAN EMBASSY: The secretary presented a set of blue prints received from Mr. Harry Cunningham, architect,

for an apartment house which is to be located on Massachusetts Avenue between Fourteenth and Fifteenth Streets, N. W. The apartment house is to be eight stories high, that is, 85 feet; is to be built of brick and will have a frontage of about 80 feet on Massachusetts Avenue. Mr. Borie and Mr. Shepley inspected the elevation submitted but pointed out that they should have the elevations for the entire building and also a perspective before considering the design in detail.

Mr. Cunningham was asked to furnish the additional drawings. In general the Commission believed that Mr. Cunningham would design a good looking building.

8. BLUE BELL HAMBURGER SHOP: The secretary presented a design by Mr. Arthur Heaton, architect, for a lunch room on D Street between Tenth and Eleventh Streets facing Pennsylvania Avenue. Mr. Borie and Mr. Shepley inspected the sketch and felt that the facade was satisfactory but that the cupola spoiled the design and was out of place on the north side of Pennsylvania Avenue. The Commission approved the design with the understanding that the cupola would be omitted.

9. NICHOLS CAFE BUILDING: The secretary presented a revised design for the Nichols Cafe made by Mr. Bedford Brown, architect, for the remodeling of the building at 614--17th Street. The design showed that Mr. Brown was keeping the motives of the old Georgian building erected over 100 years ago and also was proposing a simplified treatment for the first floor where the cafe is located. The Commission were well pleased with the design and approved it. (Exhibit E)

10. GENERAL WADSWORTH MONUMENT FOR WILDERNESS BATTLEFIELD, VIRGINIA: The secretary presented a blue print received from the National Park Service

for a proposed memorial to General Wadsworth in the Battle of the Wilderness battlefield near Fredericksburg, Virginia. The sketch was designed by Mr. Carl Mose, sculptor, who suggested a head of General Wadsworth in relief at the top of the plaque with an inscription underneath. The tablet is to be four feet long and three feet wide set into a background of local stone about nine feet high, six feet wide and three feet deep. Mr. Clarke said that this local stone should not be used as it would produce a crude looking monument. The Commission advised that a memorial of this nature should be entirely in granite--that the head of General Wadsworth and the inscription should be carved on the granite in the form of a panel.

The secretary stated that the National Park Service has other memorials of this character under consideration in this battlefield and in military cemeteries. The Commission disapproved the use of bronze on stone as it discolors it. Mr. Clarke suggested the use of Benedict nickel as this will not corrode. Also monel metal is good. Mr. Borie said that he used aluminum for the Justice Building with good results. A report was sent to the National Park Service. (Exhibit F)

11. INSCRIPTION FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION BUILDING: Under date of July 2, 1936, a design was received from the National Park Service for a sign for the Civil Service Commission Building (the old Patent Office at Eighth and F Streets, N. W.) The steps on the south side of the building are being removed and F Street widened. The lettering is to be placed over the entrance to the building underneath the portico. The Commission disapproved the use of bronze letters as they would discolor the stone. Mr. Clarke suggested the use of Benedict nickel and said the letters should be raised

about one-fourth inch from the face of the wall. The Commission approved the design with this criticism and a report was made to the National Park Service accordingly. (Exhibit G)

12. LEVEE FOR POTOMAC PARK: The secretary reported that Congress has authorized the expenditure of a sum amounting to $571,000 for the construction of a dike in Potomac Park, especially between the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial, which is to protect the city during high water. The temporary levee built last March was unsatisfactory. A copy of a letter in regard to the matter sent by the National Capital Park and Planning Commission also received attention. (Exhibit H) It is understood that the Chief of Engineers proposes to build a wall 19 feet high. Mr. Moore thought this entirely too high and said that Brigadier General Pillsbury, Assistant Chief of Engineers, who is a very able officer, should be consulted in the matter.

The Commission agreed that Mr. Clarke should represent the Commission of Fine Arts on a committee to study the subject in cooperation with the National Capital Park and Planning Commission and the Chief of Engineers office. (Exhibit H-1)

13. WATER TOWER, FORT STANTON: The Commission considered a design submitted by Mr. Nathan Wyeth for the water tower to be erected at the Stanton School, Alabama Avenue and Naylor Road, S. E. The design was given particular attention by Mr. Borie and Mr. Shepley, who felt that certain changes should be made in it. They felt that a water tank in this location requires some architectural treatment which would go beyond the mere covering of a storage tank with sheet metal. Therefore, the design should be studied with a view to arriving at some distinguished form and proportions. In particular they

felt that it would improve the appearance of the exterior to give it vertical supports and instead of a half-dome top to reverse it to a flat conical top or roof, possibly covered with tile. This was indicated in one of the photographs. Also the appearance of the water tank could be improved by planting around it. A report was sent to Mr. Wyeth accordingly. (Exhibit I)

14. STATUE FOR POSTMASTER GENERAL'S RECEPTION ROOM: Under date of July 15, 1936, the following letter was received from Mr. Edward B. Rowan, Superintendent of the Section of Painting and Sculpture Section, Treasury Department, submitting photographs of a model for a statue to go in the Postmaster General's reception room, by Mr. Attilio Piccirilli:

July 15, 1936.

Mr. Charles Moore,
The Commission of Fine Arts,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Moore:

I have requested Mr. Attilio Piccirilli, of New York City, to present photographs of his developed figure of the present day postman at the next meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts, July 17, at the office of Mr. John Russell Pope, New York City.

This is one of twelve (12) figures that Mr. Lawrie commented on, which comments were transmitted to us in your letter of December 20.

The comment and advice of the Commission on this work will be greatly appreciated.

Very sincerely yours,
(Signed) Ed Rowan,
Superintendent,
Section of Painting and Sculpture.

Mr. Lawrie inspected the photograph at the meeting and considered the model very good. Upon his recommendation the Commission approved it and a report was sent to Mr. Rowan accordingly. (Exhibit J)

15. SCULPTURE FOR POSTMASTER GENERAL'S RECEPTION ROOM: Under date of July 10, 1936, the following letter was received from Mr. Rowan regarding the model by Carl L. Schmitz for the Postmaster General's reception room:

> Reference is made to your letter of December 20, 1935, which contains the comments of Mr. Lee Lawrie, sculptor member of the Commission, concerning twelve sculpture models for the decoration of the Postmaster General's reception room, Post Office Department, Washington, D. C.
>
> These models were chosen from the entries of an invited competition by a jury consisting of Mr. Maurice Sterne, Mr. William Zorach and Miss Alice Decker.
>
> Mr. Lawrie in his letter of December 20 stressed certain general criticisms, but stated that he felt it would be better to withhold specific criticism until more developed models were submitted. With this understanding, the artists were instructed to proceed with their work and at the time were supplied a copy of Mr. Lawrie's comments and instructed to study them carefully and incorporate his suggestions in their work.
>
> Attached are two photographs of the developed model of "City Delivery Carrier--1863" by Mr. Carl L. Schmitz, together with the photograph of the original model by Mr. Schmitz. It will be noted that all of the details as to costume, accessories, and characterization are historically correct.
>
> Thanking you, I am
>
> Very sincerely yours,
> (Signed) Ed Rowan.

Mr. Lawrie gave the photograph particular attention. He considered the model a good figure but felt it had an European look. The Commission approved the model with the suggestion that Mr. Schmitz give more study to the face of the statue to overcome this difficulty. (Exhibit K)

16. STATUE FOR POSTMASTER GENERAL'S RECEPTION ROOM: Under date of July 7, 1936, the following letter was received from Mr. Rowan regarding the model representing a post rider of the period 1775 to 1789 by A. Stirling Calder:

Dear Mr. Moore:

Reference is made to your letter of December 20, 1935, which contains the comments of Mr. Lee Lawrie, sculptor member of the Commission, concerning twelve sculpture models for the decoration of the Postmaster General's reception room, Post Office Department, Washington, D. C.

These models were chosen from the entries of an invited competition by a jury consisting of Mr. Maurice Sterne, Mr. William Zorach and Miss Alice Decker.

Mr. Lawrie in the letter of December 20 stressed certain general criticisms but stated that he felt it would be better to withhold specific criticism until more developed models were submitted. With this understanding the artists were instructed to proceed with their work and at the time were supplied a copy of Mr. Lawrie's comments, and instructed to study them carefully and incorporate his suggestions in their work.

Attached are four photographs of the developed model representing a post rider, continental, from 1775 to 1789, by Mr. Stirling Calder together with a photograph of Mr. Calder's original sketch. It will be noted that all of the details as to costume, accessories and characterization are historically correct.

Thanking you, I am

Very sincerely yours,
(Signed) Ed Rowan.

Mr. Lawrie gave the photograph particular attention. The Commission considered the model based on the photograph submitted a very interesting figure. Question was raised whether the three-cornered hat should be stiffer and smaller. It was suggested that this criticism be brought to the attention of Mr. Calder and a report was sent to Mr. Rowan accordingly approving the model. (Exhibit L)

17. STATUE FOR NICHE IN POSTMASTER GENERAL'S RECEPTION ROOM: Under date of July 7, 1936, the following letter was received from Mr. Rowan regarding a statue by Mr. Louis Slobodkin representing a Hawaiian postman:

Dear Mr. Moore:

Reference is made to your letter of December 20, 1935, which contains the comments of Mr. Lee Lawrie, sculptor member of the

Commission, concerning twelve sculpture models for the decoration of the Postmaster General's reception room, Post Office Department, Washington, D. C.

These models were chosen from the entries of an invited competition by a jury consisting of Mr. Maurice Sterne, Mr. William Zorach and Miss Alice Decker.

Mr. Lawrie in the letter of December 20 stressed certain general criticisms but stated that he felt it would be better to withhold specific criticism until more developed models were submitted. With this understanding the artists were instructed to proceed with their work and at the time were supplied a copy of Mr. Lawrie's comments, and instructed to study them carefully and incorporate his suggestions in their work.

Attached are two photographs of the developed model of a Hawaiian postman by Mr. Louis Slobodkin, together with a photograph of the original model by Mr. Slobodkin. It will be noted that all of the details as to costume, accessories and characterization are historically correct.

Thanking you, I am,

Very sincerely yours,
(Signed) Ed Rowan.

The photograph was brought to the particular attention of Mr. Lawrie who considered the ~~sketch~~ model good and upon his recommendation the Commission approved it. A report was sent to Mr. Rowan accordingly. (Exhibit M)

18. STATUE FOR NICHE IN POSTMASTER GENERAL'S RECEPTION ROOM: Under date of July 7, 1936, the following letter was received from Mr. Rowan regarding a model of an Alaska Snowshoe Carrier by Chaim Gross:

Dear Mr. Moore:

Reference is made to your letter of December 20, 1935, which contains the comments of Mr. Lee Lawrie, sculptor member of the Commission, concerning twelve sculpture models for the decoration of the Postmaster General's reception room, Post Office Department, Washington, D. C.

These models were chosen from the entries of an invited competition by a jury consisting of Mr. Maurice Sterne, Mr. William Zorach and Miss Alice Decker.

Mr. Lawrie in the letter of December 20 stressed certain general criticisms but stated that he felt it would be better to withhold specific criticism until more developed models were submitted. With this understanding the artists were instructed to proceed with their work and at the time were supplied a copy of Mr. Lawrie's comments, and instructed to study them carefully and incorporate his suggestions in their work.

Attached is a photograph of the developed model of an Alaska Snowshoe Carrier by Mr. Chaim Gross, together with a photograph of the original model by Mr. Gross. It will be noted that all of the details as to costume, accessories and characterization are historically correct.

Thanking you, I am,

Very sincerely yours,
(Signed) Ed Rowan

Mr. Lawrie gave the photograph particular attention. He considered the ~~sketch~~ model good and upon his recommendation the Commission approved it. A report was sent to Mr. Rowan accordingly. (Exhibit N)

19. STATUE FOR POSTMASTER GENERAL'S RECEPTION ROOM: Under date of July 7, 1936, the following letter was received from Mr. Rowan, submitting photographs of a ~~sketch~~ model by Mr. Oronzio Maldarelli for a figure representing air mail:

Dear Mr. Moore:

Reference is made to your letter of December 20, 1935, which contains the comments of Mr. Lee Lawrie, sculptor member of the Commission, concerning twelve sculpture models for the decoration of the Postmaster General's reception room, Post Office Department, Washington, D. C.

These models were chosen from the entries of an invited competition by a jury consisting of Mr. Maurice Sterne, Mr. William Zorach and Miss Alice Decker.

Mr. Lawrie in the letter of December 20 stressed certain general criticisms but stated that he felt it would be better to withhold specific criticism until more developed models were submitted. With this understanding the artists were instructed to

proceed with their work and at the time were supplied a copy of Mr. Lawrie's comments, and instructed to study them carefully and incorporate his suggestions in their work.

Attached are six photographs of the developed figure representing air mail by Mr. Oronzio Maldarelli together with a photograph of Mr. Maldarelli's original sketch. It will be noted that all of the details as to costume, accessories and characterization are historically correct. This data was secured by Mr. Maldarelli from an experienced aviator. The photograph of the original sketch illustrates the type of niche in the Postmaster General's reception room in which this figure is to be placed.

Thanking you, I am,

Very sincerely yours,
(Signed) Ed Rowan.

Mr. Lawrie gave the photograph particular attention. Mr. Lawrie considered the statue satisfactory but made the criticism that it could be more interesting if the head were turned to the right. The Commission concurred in this criticism and a report was sent to Mr. Rowan accordingly. (Exhibit O)

20. STATUE FOR POSTMASTER GENERAL'S RECEPTION ROOM: Mr. Sidney Waugh presented a photograph of his figure of a stage driver of the Post Office during the period 1789-1836. Mr. Lawrie had a conference with Mr. Waugh concerning the model and considered it satisfactory. Since the model was really more than a sketch model the few suggestions made by Mr. Lawrie will be embodied by Mr. Waugh in his full sized model. The Commission approved the model and a report was sent to Mr. Rowan accordingly. (Exhibit P)

21. PAINTING FOR DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE BUILDING: Under date of July 15, 1936, the following letter was received from Mr. Edward B. Rowan, Superintendent of the Section of Painting and Sculpture of the Treasury Department, submitting revised mural sketches by Mr. Henry Varnum Poor for the Department of Justice Building:

Dear Mr. Moore:

In accordance with your letter of June 4, 1936, relative to the second group of mural studies designed by Mr. Henry Varnum Poor for the Department of Justice Building, and requesting Mr. Poor to restudy the two overdoor spaces, the Section submits these two revised panels in an architectural rendering with the four approved vertical designs.

The further comment and advice of the Commission on the overdoor panels will be appreciated. Explanatory notes by Mr. Poor on one of these panels accompany the sketches.

Very sincerely yours,
(Signed) Ed Rowan.

The sketches were brought to the particular attention of Mr. Savage. He felt that the sketch showing the Attorney General making a speech was satisfactory and accordingly the Commission approved it. As for the other sketch Mr. Savage made the following report concerning it:

In reviewing the study by Mr. Henry V. Poor for the overdoor space in connection with the compositions already approved for the Department of Justice Building, it is felt that Mr. Poor has not yet brought the overdoor space in line with the treatment of the other spaces which have a uniformity in scale and pattern of well established relationship.

In the overdoor itself is a perpendicular line that divides the panel from top to bottom on its axis, with the elements on either side at a different scale. It is suggested that the figures in the control room be given the dominant position, their mass crossing the center and the group of malefactors be further reduced to a scale similar to the figures writing the stock quotations in the broker's office in another panel.

The Commission recommended that a revised design embodying these suggestions be submitted to the Commission of Fine Arts. A report was sent to Mr. Rowan accordingly. (Exhibit Q)

22. PAINTING FOR DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE BUILDING: Under date of July 15, 1936, Mr. Edward B. Rowan, sent the following letter concerning a revised sketch

by Mr. John Steuart Curry for a painting entitled "Justice Defeating Mob Violence" to be placed in the Department of Justice Building:

Dear Mr. Moore:

Mr. John Steuart Curry has submitted for the further consideration of the Commission of Fine Arts a photograph of his second panel for the Department of Justice Building. This photograph has been mailed directly to the office of Mr. John Russell Pope, 542 Fifth Avenue, New York City, marked for the attention of Mr. Caemmerer, for the meeting of the Commission on July 17, 1936.

The design in question, "Justice Defeating Mob Violence" was considered by the Commission at its last meeting and general approval given to the composition in accordance with your letter of June 8, 1936.

It will be noted in the photograph that the suggestion of the Commission to bring the figure typifying Justice down one step and adding dignity to the figure by having him stand erect has been carried out by the artist and the architectural motives have been revised in accordance with the wishes of the Commission. The artist, however, found that in attempting to embody the suggestion of the Commission of having the fugitive in a prone and horizontal position the effectiveness of the drama of the situation was interfered with, as was the artist's general conception of the design, and for these reasons Mr. Curry has represented the fugitive as presented in his earlier sketch.

For your information, the full-size cartoon has been tried in place and in the opinion of the members of the Section fits the space unusually well, the scale of the figures being close to perfect for their setting. A business trip to the West prevents Mr. Curry from submitting the photograph of his redesign in person.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Ed Rowan.

A photograph sent by Mr. Curry of his revised sketch was received at the meeting. The sketch was inspected by Mr. Savage and also by other members of the Commission present. The Commission felt that Mr. Curry had made a satisfactory revision of his painting and approved it. A report was sent to Mr. Rowan accordingly. (Exhibit R)

23. PAINTING FOR DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE BUILDING: Under date of July 10, 1936, the following letter was received from Mr. Rowan submitting a two-inch scale mural design by Emil Bistram of Taos, New Mexico, for a painting in the Department of Justice Building, as follows:

Dear Mr. Moore:

Under separate cover, I am having forwarded to the Commission of Fine Arts for its comment and advice a 2" scale mural design by Mr. Emil Bistram, of Taos, New Mexico.

This design was submitted in a national competition open to American artists and was one of three selected from 250 designs submitted in the competition by a jury of artists consisting of Messrs. Edward Bruce, Olin Dows, Leon Kroll, Ernest Peixotto, Henry Schnakenberg, Jonas Lie, Bancel La Farge, and Eugene Speicher, all of whom were present at the time of selection. The design has since been submitted to the architect of the building, Mr. C. L. Borie, and is acceptable in principle to him.

The mural is to be placed in a space opposite the elevator, Lobby No. 9, first floor, Department of Justice Building, a drawing of which space is attached herewith.

Thanking you, I am

Very sincerely yours,
(Signed) Ed Rowan.

The members of the Commission inspected the painting, which is entitled "Woman Emancipated Through Justice". The Commission felt that the color scheme was very good. However, Mr. Borie said that two additional paintings in the same series are to be submitted and that he would suggest that criticism as to the sketch submitted be held in abeyance until the two other sketch paintings are received. The Commission agreed to this and a report was sent to Mr. Rowan accordingly. (Exhibit S)

24. PAINTING FOR POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT BUILDING: Under date of July 7, 1936, the following letter was received from Mr. Edward B. Rowan, submitting a

sketch painting by Doris Lee for the Post Office Department Building and also a full sized cartoon of one of the sketches:

Dear Mr. Moore:

I am having forwarded to you under separate cover two 2" scale original sketches, two pencil drawings and one full size cartoon, designed by Miss Doris Lee, of proposed murals for the elevator lobby, Post Office Department Building, Washington, D. C.

These designs were chosen in December, 1935, from a national competition by the following jury:

Edward Bruce	Henry Schnakenberg
Olin Dows	Jonas Lie
Leon Kroll	Bancel La Farge
Ernest Peixotto	Eugene Speicher

The Section of Painting and Sculpture, however, was not ready to submit these designs to the Commission of Fine Arts for its comment and advice until Miss Lee had carried her work further and for this reason, I would appreciate the Commission concentrating its criticism on the left half of the full size cartoon which Miss Lee has carried out in greater detail of drawing and color in order to give an idea of what the finished work will be like.

Thanking you for your courtesy, I am,

Very sincerely yours,
(Signed) Ed Rowan.

The sketch was brought to the particular attention of Mr. Savage, who made the following report:

In the exterior view the linear relations in the composition are excellent, both for action and pattern. It is felt, however, that the unity can be more fully realized if the barn and other buildings in background center are raised as much as the space will allow, even at the loss of the weather vane. In her cartoon Miss Lee has made a change in this direction.

The Commission inspected the sketches and also the full sized cartoon. Mr. Savage pointed out that the apparent ugliness of some of the characters shown in the small sketches was due to the fact that Miss Lee had endeavored to portray people of an old Dutch community of New York State.

The Commission agreed with Mr. Savage that the full sized cartoon was a great improvement over the small sketches and indicated that Miss Lee was a painter of ability and that her cartoons gave promise of a good painting. Accordingly the sketches were approved by the Commission and a report was sent to Mr. Rowan. (Exhibit T)

The Commission adjourned at 3:00 p. m.

C O P Y

July 24, 1936.

Dear Miss O'Reilly:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting in New York City on July 17, 1936, were in conference with Mr. Walter R. Nichols in regard to the York County, Maine, memorial coin. The Commission approved the design with the understanding that the date 1636 at the top of the obverse be omitted and that the G in "God" be slightly corrected.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Hon. M. M. O'Reilly,
Acting Director of the Mint,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT A

C O P Y

July 20, 1936.

Dear Miss O'Reilly:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting in New York City on July 17, 1936, considered the photographs of the model for the New Rochelle, New York, Memorial Coin, which you submitted with your letter of July 15. The model was brought to the particular attention of Mr. Lee Lawrie, sculptor member of the Commission.

The Commission advise that the figure of the Indian on the obverse should be re-studied. Question was raised whether or not an Indian in this costume was a native of the New Rochelle region. Also the word, "Liberty", should be taken from the figure of the Indian. It is also considered bad designing to cut off parts of the stars in the margin. An entire re-study of the obverse is recommended.

As for the reverse the Commission believe it will improve the design to show 250th in letters rather than figures.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Miss M. M. O'Reilly,
Acting Director,
Bureau of the Mint,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT B

C O P Y

July 17, 1936.

Dear Miss O'Reilly:

Your letter of July 15, with which you submitted sketches of a design for the Elgin, Illinois, memorial coin, has been received. The Commission of Fine Arts considered the sketches at their meeting held today in New York City and approve the sketches. The head of the obverse should be shown in profile.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Hon. M. M. O'Reilly,
Acting Director of the Mint,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT C

C O P Y

July 17, 1936.

Dear Miss O'Reilly:

The sketches for the Bridgeport, Connecticut, Centennial Half-dollar by Mr. Kreis, which you submitted with your letter of July 10, received the attention of the Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting today in New York City. The Commission approve the sketches.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Hon. M. M. O'Reilly,
Acting Director of the Mint,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT D

C O P Y

August 6, 1936.

Dear Mr. Rowan:

In reply to your letter of August 3, concerning the design by Emil Bistram for the mural painting in the Department of Justice Building, I have to inform you that the copy of the correspondence which you had with Mr. Borie on the subject is sufficiently explanatory to show that Mr. Bistram should be allowed to proceed with his work with the understanding that the other two painters in question, namely, Mr. Shimin of New York and Mr. Balator of Portland, Oregon, should take Mr. Bistram's color scheme into consideration in the progress of their work. The Commission of Fine Arts concur in this arrangement.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very truly yours,

Chairman.

Mr. Edward B. Rowan, Superintendent,
Section of Painting and Sculpture,
Procurement Division,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT E

DRAFT OF LETTER

C O P Y

July 25, 1936.

Dear Mr. Caemmerer:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting in New York City on July 17, 1936, considered a design by Carl C. Mose, sculptor, for a memorial to General James S. Wadsworth to be erected in the Wilderness Battlefield, Virginia. The design, of which a blue-print was submitted, suggests a bronze tablet three feet wide and four feet high to be set into a background of rubble-stone six feet wide and about nine feet high and three feet eight inches thick. Under the head of General Wadsworth is an inscription.

The Commission always advise that the use of bronze on stone is undesirable for a memorial, especially when exposed to the elements. Drippings from bronze discolor the stone and also in a short time the bronze tablet becomes merely a black spot.

The Commission recommend that the sculptor use granite in place of rubble-stone for the entire memorial; also that the tablet take the form of a panel with the head of General Wadsworth carved into the stone. Mr. Mose has had experience in work of this kind, having produced a panel for the Major Anderson flag-pole at Fort Sumter.

It is realized that the use of granite will increase the cost of the memorial. It may be that the family of General Wadsworth will not wish to incur additional expense, and if metal has to be used for the tablet the Commission recommend the use of Benedict nickel, which does not discolor the stone.

The Commission suggests that the whole question of the design of markers for this battlefield be studied, with a view to securing some degree of uniformity and thus avoiding the serious errors made in the early monuments on other battlefields.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very sincerely yours,
(Signed) Charles Moore,
Chairman.

Hon. A. B. Cammerer, Director,
National Park Service,
Interior Department,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT F

C O P Y

July 21, 1936.

Dear Mr. Carnes:

The design for lettering on the Civil Service Commission Building at 8th and F Streets, N. W., which you submitted with your letter of July 2, received the attention of the Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on July 17, 1936.

The Commission approve the design for the lettering with the recommendation that Benedict nickel be used instead of bronze and that the letters project about one-fourth inch from the face of the wall. The Benedict nickel will not stain the stone as it does not tarnish. The design is herewith returned.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Mr. W. G. Carnes,
Acting Chief Architect,
National Park Service,
Interior Department,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT G

C
O
P
Y

July 15, 1936.

Flood Control in District of Columbia.

National Capital Park and Planning Commission,
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

The Flood Control Bill, Act Public #738 - 74th Congress (H.R. 8455), approved June 22, 1936, adopted, among many others, a project for the protection from floods of certain areas in the District of Columbia as follows:

> "Washington, District of Columbia: Levees and grade raising to protect downtown portion of Washington, Arlington Experimental Farm, Bolling Field, and Anacostia Naval Air Station; plans in House Document numbered 101, Seventy-third Congress, first session; estimated construction cost $571,000; estimated cost of lands and damages, $16,000."

That portion of the above item "to protect downtown Washington" provides for a levee approximately on the line of Independence Avenue between the mounds on which rest the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument, the raising of P Street, S. W., near Canal Street, and flood gates on all sewers and drains leading out of the low area. Of these last two features, the raising of P Street has been completed and the Sewer Department of the District of Columbia has well in hand the installation of flood gates on the outlets involved.

The recent flood of March 19, 1936, while of record proportions, was still below the maximum that can be expected. One evidence of this is that the watershed of the North Branch of the Potomac, by a freak of nature, received much less precipitation than the watersheds lying on either side. As it was, the flood reached a height where water could have flowed into Constitution Avenue at 17th Street but for the emergency levee that was constructed across 17th Street.

All parties agree that with the vital interests and tremendous values at stake at the seat of government, the downtown area of Washington and as much of the Public park areas as is feasible must be permanently protected beyond all possibility of inundation. A substantial levee of adequate height, coupled with complete sewer flood gate equipment and means of evacuating water within the low area, will afford this protection. Steps taken during the recent flood demonstrated the effectiveness of such measures.

Exhibit F

The project adopted by the flood control act is based upon a levee along the line of Independence Avenue and conforms with a plan which had the sanction of the Planning Commission at the time that the project document was prepared. Since that time it is understood that several modifications have been considered but no alternate site for a permanent flood protection levee has been definitely advanced. It is believed that the location of the levee as indicated is well advised in that it provides the maximum of permanent protection within the cost limitations prescribed in the authorizing act.

Preparation of the detail plans for the protective works has been assigned to this office. In view of the fact that funds for construction purposes may soon be provided, it is urgent that designs be prosecuted with the utmost of expediency. With this thought in mind, the matter is presented to the National Capital Park and Planning Commission for review and suggested minor alterations to conform to present park planning or submission of such data pointing to the advisability of change of location brought about by conditions not considered during the prior study.

If desired I will be pleased to appear before your Commission to answer any further questions you may wish to ask or to consult with members of your staff with regard to plans for the flood protection levee.

Very truly yours,

W. J. Matteson,
1st Lt., Corps of Engineers,
Acting District Engineer.

COPY

C O P Y

July 20, 1936.

Dear Mr. Cammerer:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on July 17, were informed of the flood control bill approved June 22, 1936, which authorizes an expenditure of $571,000 for the construction of levees and grade raising to protect the down town portion of Washington in flood time. The Commission understand that this is being made the subject of study by the National Capital Park and Planning Commission. Mr. Gilmore D. Clarke, landscape architect member of the Commission, was appointed to represent the Commission of Fine Arts to study the project in cooperation with the National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

I would like to suggest that the Assistant Chief of Engineers, Brigadier General George G. Pillsbury, be consulted in connection with the project. Personally it would seem to me that a 19-foot embankment is out of proportion in the area about the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very sincerely yours,
(Signed) Charles Moore,
Chairman.

Hon. A. B. Cammerer, Director,
National Park Service,
Interior Department,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT H-1

C O P Y

July 31, 1936.

Dear Mr. Wyeth:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on July 17, 1936, considered the design which you submitted for the water tower to be erected at the Stanton School, Alabama Avenue and Naylor Road, S. E. The design was given particular attention by the architect members of the Commission who felt that certain changes should be made in it.

The Commission feel that a water tank in this location requires some architectural treatment which would go beyond the mere covering of a storage tank with sheet metal. This requires that the design be studied with a view to arriving at some distinguished form and proportions.

In particular the Commission feel that it would improve the appearance of the exterior to give it vertical supports and instead of a half-dome top to reverse the top to a flat conical roof, possibly covered with tile. This is indicated in one of the photographs. The Commission also felt that the appearance of the water tank could be improved by planting around it and recommend that a landscape plan be prepared for it.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very truly yours,
(Signed) Charles Moore,
Chairman.

Mr. Nathan C. Wyeth,
Municipal Architect,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT I

C O P Y

July 20, 1936.

Dear Mr. Rowan:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting in New York City on July 17, 1936, considered the photograph which you submitted with your letter of July 15, of a model by Mr. Attilio Piccirilli of New York City for a statue in the Post Office Department Building.

The photograph was given particular attention by Mr. Lee Lawrie, sculptor member of the Commission. The Commission considered the model very good and approved it accordingly.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very truly yours,
(Signed) Charles Moore,
Chairman.

Mr. Edward B. Rowan, Superintendent,
Section of Painting and Sculpture,
Procurement Division,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT J

C O P Y

July 20, 1936.

Dear Mr. Rowan:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting in New York City on July 17, 1936, considered the photographs which you submitted with your letter of July 15, of a model of a "City Delivery Carrier--1863" by Mr. Carl L. Schmitz.

The photograph was given particular attention by Mr. Lee Lawrie, sculptor member of the Commission. Mr. Lawrie considers the model a good figure but notes that it has a European look. The Commission suggest that Mr. Schmitz give further study to the face of the carrier to overcome this criticism.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Mr. Edward B. Rowan, Superintendent,
Section of Painting and Sculpture,
Procurement Division,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT K

C O P Y

July 20, 1936.

Dear Mr. Rowan:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting in New York City, July 17, 1936, considered the photographs which you submitted with your letter of July 7, of a model by A. Stirling Calder for a statue to represent a Continental post rider to be placed in the Postmaster General's reception room.

The Commission of Fine Arts consider this a very interesting figure. The question was raised whether the three-cornered hat should be stiffer or smaller. It is suggested that this criticism be brought to the attention of Mr. Calder. The Commission approve the model.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Mr. Edward B. Rowan, Superintendent,
Section of Painting and Sculpture,
Procurement Division,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT L

C O P Y

July 20, 1936.

Dear Mr. Rowan:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on July 17, 1936, considered the photograph which you submitted with your letter of July 7, of a statue of a Hawaiian postman by Mr. Louis Slobodkin to be placed in a niche in the reception room of the Postmaster General.

The photograph was brought to the particular attention of Mr. Lee Lawrie, sculptor member of the Commission. Mr. Lawrie considers the sketch good and the Commission of Fine Arts accordingly approve it.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very truly yours,
(Signed) Charles Moore,
Chairman.

Mr. Edward B. Rowan, Superintendent,
Section of Painting and Sculpture,
Procurement Division,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT M

C O P Y

July 20, 1936.

Dear Mr. Rowan:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on July 17, 1936, considered the photograph which you submitted with your letter of July 7, of a statue of an Alaska snowshoe carrier by Mr. Chaim Gross to be placed in a niche in the reception room of the Postmaster General.

The photograph was brought to the particular attention of Mr. Lee Lawrie, sculptor member of the Commission. Mr. Lawrie considers the sketch good and the Commission of Fine Arts accordingly approve it.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Mr. Edward B. Rowan, Superintendent,
Section of Painting and Sculpture,
Procurement Division,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT N

C O P Y

July 20, 1936.

Dear Mr. Rowan:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on July 17, 1936, considered the photographs of a sketch model by Mr. Oronzio Maldarelli for a statue in the Postmaster General's reception room, which you submitted with your letter of July 7.

The photograph was given particular attention by Mr. Lee Lawrie, sculptor member of the Commission. Mr. Lawrie advises that the sketch model is satisfactory but could be made more interesting if the head were turned somewhat to the right. The Commission of Fine Arts concur in Mr. Lawrie's criticism.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Mr. Edward B. Rowan, Superintendent,
Section of Painting and Sculpture,
Procurement Division,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT O

C O P Y

July 22, 1936.

Dear Mr. Rowan:

Your letter of July 15, in regard to a proposed statue by Mr. Sidney Waugh for the Post Office Department Building, was received. Mr. Waugh presented a photograph of his figure of a stage driver of the Post Office, 1789-1836 at the meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts in New York City on July 17.

Mr. Lee Lawrie, sculptor member of the Commission, considered Mr. Waugh's model satisfactory. He suggested a few minor changes which Mr. Waugh will embody in the further development of the model. The Commission approved the model.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Mr. Edward B. Rowan, Superintendent,
Section of Painting and Sculpture,
Procurement Division,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT P

C O P Y

July 21, 1936.

Dear Mr. Rowan:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting in New York City on July 17, considered the second group of mural studies designed by Henry Varnum Poor for the Department of Justice Building. The sketches were inspected in particular by Mr. Savage who reported as follows:

> In reviewing the study by Mr. Henry V. Poor for the overdoor space in connection with the compositions already approved for the Department of Justice Building, it is felt that Mr. Poor has not yet brought the overdoor space in line with the treatment of the other spaces which have a uniformity in scale and pattern of well established relationship.
>
> In the overdoor itself is a perpendicular line that divides the panel from top to bottom on its axis, with the elements on either side at a different scale. It is suggested that the figures in the control room be given the dominant position, their mass crossing the center and the group of malefactors be further reduced to a scale similar to the figures writing the stock quotations in the broker's office in another panel.
>
> If Mr. Poor would consider the overdoor further and, or as, he proceeds with the other panels, the desired harmony would no doubt come about.

A revised design embodying these suggestions should be submitted to the Commission of Fine Arts. The other sketch was approved.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very truly yours,
(Signed) Charles Moore,
Chairman.

Mr. Edward B. Rowan, Superintendent,
Section of Painting and Sculpture,
Procurement Division,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT Q

C O P Y

July 20, 1936.

Dear Mr. Rowan:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting in New York City on July 17, 1936, considered a photograph of Mr. John Steuart Curry's second panel for the Department of Justice Building. The Commission felt that Mr. Curry had made a satisfactory revision of his painting and approved it.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Mr. Edward B. Rowan, Superintendent,
Section of Painting and Sculpture,
Procurement Division,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT R

C O P Y

July 20, 1936.

Dear Mr. Rowan:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on July 17, 1936, in New York City, considered the two-inch scale mural design by Mr. Emil Bistram, which you submitted with your letter of July 10.

The Commission expressed interest in the design and felt Mr. Bistram would produce a good painting. However, Mr. C. L. Borie, one of the architects of the Department of Justice Building and a member of the Commission of Fine Arts, stated that there are two additional sketches being made by Mr. Bistram for this group of three paintings. On the recommendation of Mr. Borie criticism as to the painting which you submitted has been held in abeyance until the three sketches can be considered together.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very truly yours,
(Signed) Charles Moore,
Chairman.

Mr. Edward B. Rowan, Superintendent,
Section of Painting and Sculpture,
Procurement Division,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D. C.

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EXHIBIT S

C O P Y

July 20, 1936.

Dear Mr. Rowan:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting in New York City on July 17, 1936, considered the sketches and the full sized cartoon by Doris Lee of proposed mural paintings for the Post Office Department Building in Washington. The sketches were given particular attention by Mr. Eugene Savage, painter member of the Commission, who reported as follows:

> In the exterior view the linear relations in the composition are excellent, both for action and pattern. It is felt, however, that the unity can be more fully realized if the barn and other buildings in background center are raised as much as the space will allow, even at the loss of the weather vane. In her cartoon Miss Lee has made a change in this direction.

Accordingly, the Commission of Fine Arts approve the sketches, subject to the criticisms of Mr. Savage concerning them.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Mr. Edward B. Rowan, Superintendent,
Section of Painting and Sculpture,
Procurement Division,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT T